

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed *November 6, 2002*. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-21 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 22-36 have been added. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Response To Objections

Claim 1 was objected to because of a grammatical informality. Specifically, on line 8, a word was missing after "synchronization" (second occurrence). Since claim 1 has been cancelled, this objection is rendered moot. New claims have been written in a way so as to avoid this grammatical error.

Reference Relied Upon to Support the 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

Varma (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134) is described herein. In the abstract, *Varma* discloses a server used for real-time collaboration sessions. The server supports the creation and deletion of partitions as well as the addition and withdrawal of clients during a current collaboration session. In col. 5, lines 23-26, clients are defined as those running on desk top computers, laptop computers, network computers, or work stations.

In col. 5, lines 39-63, the term "partition" is defined in *Varma* as a workspace broken up into disjoint parts which can be modified independently of each other. According to *Varma*, workspaces can be partitioned in different ways, such as by paragraph for a text document, by table for a spreadsheet application, etc. Each partition can be assigned to independent servers.

In col. 6, line 53 through col. 7, line 21, *Varma* appears to teach how the distributed server is used. Each request to modify the work space identifies which partitions are affected by the modification. A "compound modification" appears to refer to a modification that affects a multiplicity of partitions, whereas an ordinary modification only affects one partition. For any partition identified as being affected by a modification, the position of the given modification in the sequence of

modifications by any collaboration client is the same. All modifications preceding the given modification on each identified partition would have been processed by the client.

Response to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by *Varma* (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134). Since claims 1-21 have been canceled by amendment herein, the rejection of these claims is considered moot. With respect to new claims 22-36, Applicants contend that the new claims are allowable over *Varma* for at least the reasons mentioned below.

Claims 22-26:

New independent claim 22 recites ***“remote event buffering logic”*** which is configured to ***“buffer the events received by the remote application sharing logic.”*** *Varma* appears to teach a buffer (col. 8, line 21), but the buffer stores “modification entries” that are buffered at a central partition server. Another distinction is that the *Varma* buffer receives modifications that are sent to the “partition server” as opposed to the recitation in claim 22 in which the buffered events are ***“received by the remote application sharing logic.”***

The remote event buffering logic, as claimed, is further ***“configured to determine if said at least one corresponding remote application is ready to receive said events.”*** Instead, *Varma*’s buffer appears to provide a history of modification entries for a client that is added (col. 8, lines 18-25). It appears that the history information stored in the buffer brings a new client up to speed with the other clients in the collaboration session. *Varma* fails to teach or suggest that a determination of whether the ***“at least one corresponding remote application is ready to receive said events,”*** as claimed.

Claim 22 further recites that the system includes the sharing of event ***“from a plurality of local applications”*** and received by ***“a plurality of remote applications.”*** *Varma* does not teach or suggest the transmitting and receiving of events from a plurality of local and remote applications.

Dependent claims 23-26 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 22. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claims 27-31:

Independent claim 27 recites transmitting events from “a plurality of local applications” and transmitting the events to “a plurality of remote applications.” *Varma* does not teach or suggest the use of multiple local applications and multiple remote applications. Instead, *Varma* takes a single application and divides it into partitions, so that each partition server handles only a portion (partition) of the single application.

Claim 27 further recites “***buffering the events received in the remote application sharing logic.***” *Varma* appears to teach a buffer that buffers modifications in order to remember “the order in which they are entered into the queue” which “forms the order of serialization of modifications on the partition” (see *Varma* col. 8, lines 22-25). *Varma*’s buffer apparently stores a history of modification entries for a client that is added in the middle of a collaboration session. However, the buffer of *Varma* does not include buffering “events” that are received in a “remote application sharing logic.”

Claim 27 further comprises “***determining if a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events.***” *Varma*’s buffer has a different purpose, i.e., to remember the order in which the modification are entered into the queue so that this order can be followed when the partition server processes the modifications. *Varma* fails to teach or suggest determining if the remote applications are “***ready to receive the events,***” as claimed.

Dependent claims 28-31 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 27. *In re Fine, supra.*

Claims 32-36:

Independent claim 32, newly added, recites “***means for buffering the events received in the remote application sharing logic.***” *Varma* does teach or disclose means for buffering “events” that are received “in the remote application sharing

logic.” Instead, *Varma*’s buffer stores modifications for the purpose of partition server.

Claim 32 further comprises “*means for determining if a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events.*” *Varma*’s buffer remembers the order in which modifications are entered into the queue (see *Varma* col. 8, lines 22-25), but fails to teach or suggest means for determining if “*a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events,*” as claimed.

Dependent claims 33-36 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 32. *In re Fine, supra.*

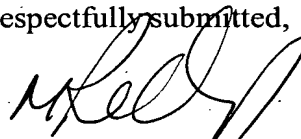
Response to 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection

Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Varma* in view of *Hales et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,723). Since these claims have been cancelled, this rejection is rendered moot. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that new claims 22-36 contain subject matter which is neither taught nor suggested by the combination of *Varma* and *Hales et al.* Applicants contend that *Hales et al.* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Varma*, as mentioned above, with respect to independent claims 22, 27, and 32. Therefore, the subject matter recited in dependent claims 23-26, 28-31, and 33-36 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons that they depend from allowable independent claims. It is further believed that these dependent claims include additional allowable subject matter, and for these reasons it is respectfully requested that the Examiner kindly withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 22-36 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on March 6,
2003.

Evelyn Sanders
Signature -